

D-329
Rebecca C. Taylor House
(Brinsfield House)
Eldorado vicinity (site)
c. 1870
Private

The Rebecca C. Taylor house, commonly known as the Brinsfield house during the early to mid twentieth century, dated to the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Estimated to date around 1870, the two-story bracketed frame dwelling was one of the largest, most decorated Victorian dwellings in the Fork Election District. Identified under the Italianate style with its bracketed eaves and window lintels, the center hall/double pile plan dwelling was a solidly crafted structure that included a single-story service wing when originally built. Accompanying the house were a host of domestic and agrarian outbuildings; only the smokehouse and dairy stood on the property by the 1970s.

Construction of this impressive two-story bracketed frame house occurred during the ownership of Rebecca C. Taylor, who held title to this part of the Rehobeth tract between 1831 and her death in 1898. She was a large landholder during three quarters of the nineteenth century; her land extended from Cokesbury Road back to what is now known as Contrary road. "Becky Taylor Branch," a tributary of the Northwest Fork, originates from the center of her former farm. Although demolished, the house was one of the most impressive Italianate style dwellings in rural Dorchester County outside Cambridge. Following her death in 1898, the property passed to her heirs, Jacob Napoleon Wilson, Ezekial W. Wilson, Rebecca C. Bradley, and Fannie E. Wright. Prior to World War I, the Italianate house was the residence of Jacob N. Wilson and his wife Celia. Brinsfield family ownership of the property began in January 1913. The farm

was held by George S. Brinsfield until World War II, and then by his son, Willis and wife, Sadie, until the mid 1980s.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-329

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Rebecca C. Taylor Farm

other Brinsfield House

2. Location

street and number Cokesbury Road not for publication

city, town Eldorado x vicinity

county Dorchester

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owner)

name Thomas J. and Dianna L. Pierzchalski

street and number 5739 Rhodesdale-Eldorado Road telephone

city, town Rhodesdale state MD zip code 21659

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber PLC 248 folio 253

city, town Cambridge tax map 24 tax parcel 15 tax ID number 01-001205

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	0
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	buildings
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-329

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Brinsfield House, also known as the Rebecca C. Taylor house, formerly stood on the east side of Cokesbury Road northeast of the village of Eldorado, formerly known as Crotcher's Ferry. The two-story hip roofed frame house, erected around 1870, rested on a brick foundation and was sheathed with plain weatherboards. The center hall/double pile frame dwelling was covered by a low pitched hip roof with a pair of corbelled cap brick chimney protruding through the center of the roof. Standing in reasonable repair at the time of the 1975 survey, the house was demolished sometime following and prior to the survey conducted in 2007. Accompanying the house on the site were two outbuildings, a frame smokehouse and frame dairy.

Erected around 1870, the two-story, five-bay, center hall plan frame dwelling was supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior was clad with plain weatherboard siding. Trimming the corners of the house were paneled pilasters that rose to a board frieze enhanced with sawn brackets featuring pendant drops. The symmetrical five-bay façade was marked by six-over-six sash windows featuring bracketed lintels. Sheltering the center three bays was a square columned porch enriched with snake-shaped corner brackets. The front entrance had a multi-pane transom and sidelights. The second floor was lighted by a smaller size six-over-six sash window.

The rear wall is defined by three-bays, and a single-story kitchen wing extended from the east wall but was removed by the time of the 1975 survey visit.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-329

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Rebecca C. Taylor house, commonly known as the Brinsfield house during the early to mid twentieth century, dated to the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Estimated to date around 1870, the two-story bracketed frame dwelling was one of the largest and most decorated Victorian dwellings in the Fork Election District. Identified under the Italianate style with its bracketed eaves and window lintels, the center hall/double pile dwelling was a solidly crafted structure that included a single-story service wing as it was initially built. Accompanying the house were a host of domestic and agrarian outbuildings; only the smokehouse and dairy stood on the property by the 1970s.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Construction of this impressive two-story bracketed frame house occurred during the ownership of Rebecca C. Taylor, who held title to this part of the Rehoboth tract between 1831 and her death in 1898. She was a large landholder during the third and fourth quarters of the nineteenth century; her land extended from Cokesbury Road back to what is known as Contrary Road. Becky Taylor Branch, a tributary of the Northwest Fork, originates from the center of the farm. Although demolished, the house was one of the more impressive Italianate style dwellings in Dorchester County. Following her death in 1898, the property passed to her heirs, Jacob Napoleon Wilson, Ezekial W. Wilson, Rebecca C. Bradley, and Fannie E. Wright.¹ Prior to World War I the Italianate house was the residence of Jacob N. Wilson and his wife Celia.² Brinsfield family ownership of the property began in January 1913.³ The farm was held by George S. Brinsfield until World War II, and then by his son Willis and wife, Sadie until the mid 1980s.⁴

¹ Dorchester County Land Record, WLJ 23/284, 30 March 1899, Dorchester County Courthouse.

² *Ibid.*

³ Dorchester County Land Record, WLR 5/338, 1 January 1913, Dorchester County Courthouse.

⁴ Dorchester County Land Record, PLC 248/253, 25 January 1988, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-329

Name Rebecca C. Taylor House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Rebecca C. Taylor House
Eldorado vicinity (site)

Map 24, Parcel 15

PLC 248/253

George W. Brinsfield, Evelyn Louise Brinsfield,
Linda Veith, and Claudia Buiano

to

1.25.1988

Thomas Pierzchalski and Diana L. Pierzchalski

\$85,000 Lot No. 1

PLC 240/950

Sadie M. Brinsfield

to

7.1.1986

George W. Brinsfield, Undivided 1/3 interest
Evelyn Louise Brinsfield, Undivided 1/3 interest
Linda Veith, Undivided 1/6 interest
Claudia Buiano, Undivided 1/6 interest

RSM 87/399

Calvin L. Brinsfield

to

3.8.1954

Willis K. Brinsfield
Sadie M. Brinsfield

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-329

Name Rebecca C. Taylor House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

RSM 55/150

George R. Brinsfield, widower

to, son

3.30.1945

Willis K. Brinsfield

80 acres-reserving, however, for the use of the family of
Rebecca C. Taylor, all that graveyard, as now used

WLR 5/338

Royce B. Wilson and others

to

1.1.1913

George S. Brinsfield

\$5,650.00

WLR 4/494

Jacob N. Wilson and Celia E. Wilson

to

5.1.1912

Roland C. Wilson

Being part of the lands allotted to the said Jacob N. Wilson as heir at law of Rebecca C. Taylor, under a commission to value and divide the lands of the said Rebecca C. Taylor, issued out of the Circuit Court for Dorchester County, in case wherein the said Jacob N. Wilson and others were complainants and Frank Wright and others were defendants, No. 2200 Chancery, in said court; being also a part of the same lands that Francis H. Webb, Commissioner and Ezekial W. Wilson and others conveyed unto the said Jacob N. Wilson by deed dated March 30th, 1899, WLJ 23/284, to which said last named deed the lands therein described are

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-329

Name Rebecca C. Taylor House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

therein designated as Lot No. 1, Lot No. 6, Lot No. 11, Lot and Lot No. 16, the lands embraced in this deed being the same lands in said deed designated as Lot No. 1 and being in the district....whereon the said Jacob N. Wilson and Celia E. Wilson, his wife, formerly resided....containing one hundred and seventy-five acres, more or less

WLJ 23/284

Ezekial W. Wilson, Albert D. Bradley, Rebecca C. Bradley, Frank Wright and Fannie E. Wright

to

3.30.1899

Jacob N. Wilson

Whereas Rebecca C. Taylor late of said county, deceased, did depart this life 1898, intestate, possessed of real estate of great value, and leaving as her sole heirs

Jacob Napoleon Wilson
Ezekial W. Wilson
Rebecca C. Bradley
Fannie E. Wright

1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas, Fork District, R.C. Taylor designed northeast of Crotcher's Ferry on a sizable tract along Cokesbury Road

FJH 5/265

Minos H. C. Wilson

to, widow

8.19.1862

Rebecca C. Wilson
(Rebecca C. Taylor)

\$2660.00 243 acres "Rehoboth"

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-329

Name Rebecca C. Taylor House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 4

Dorchester County
Land Commissions
ER 7/357

Ezekial Wheatley

to, daughter

8.11.1831

Rebecca C. Wilson

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-329

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 80 acres
Acreage of historical setting 243 + acres
Quadrangle name Rhodesdale, MD

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

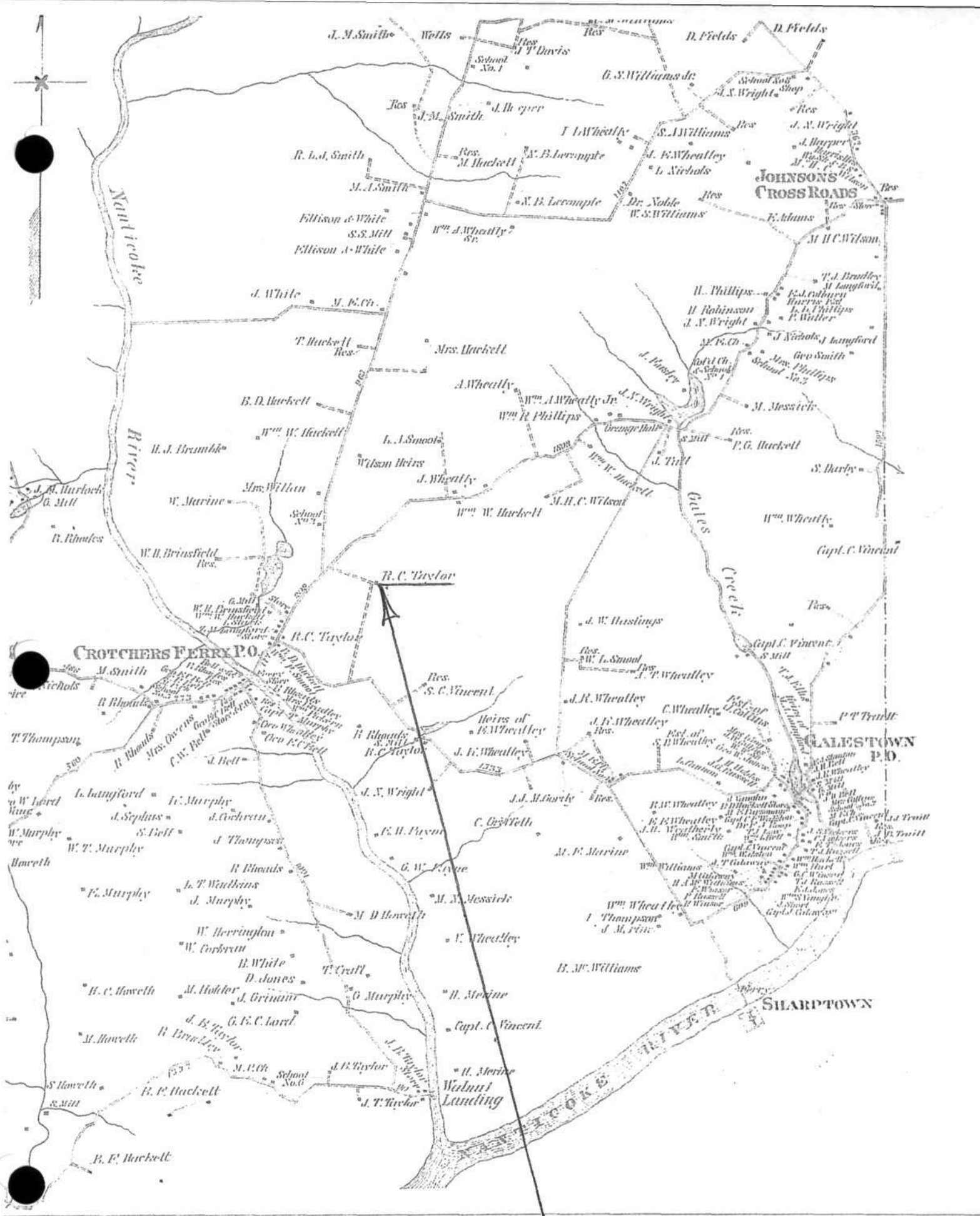
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	7/16/2008
street & number	Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

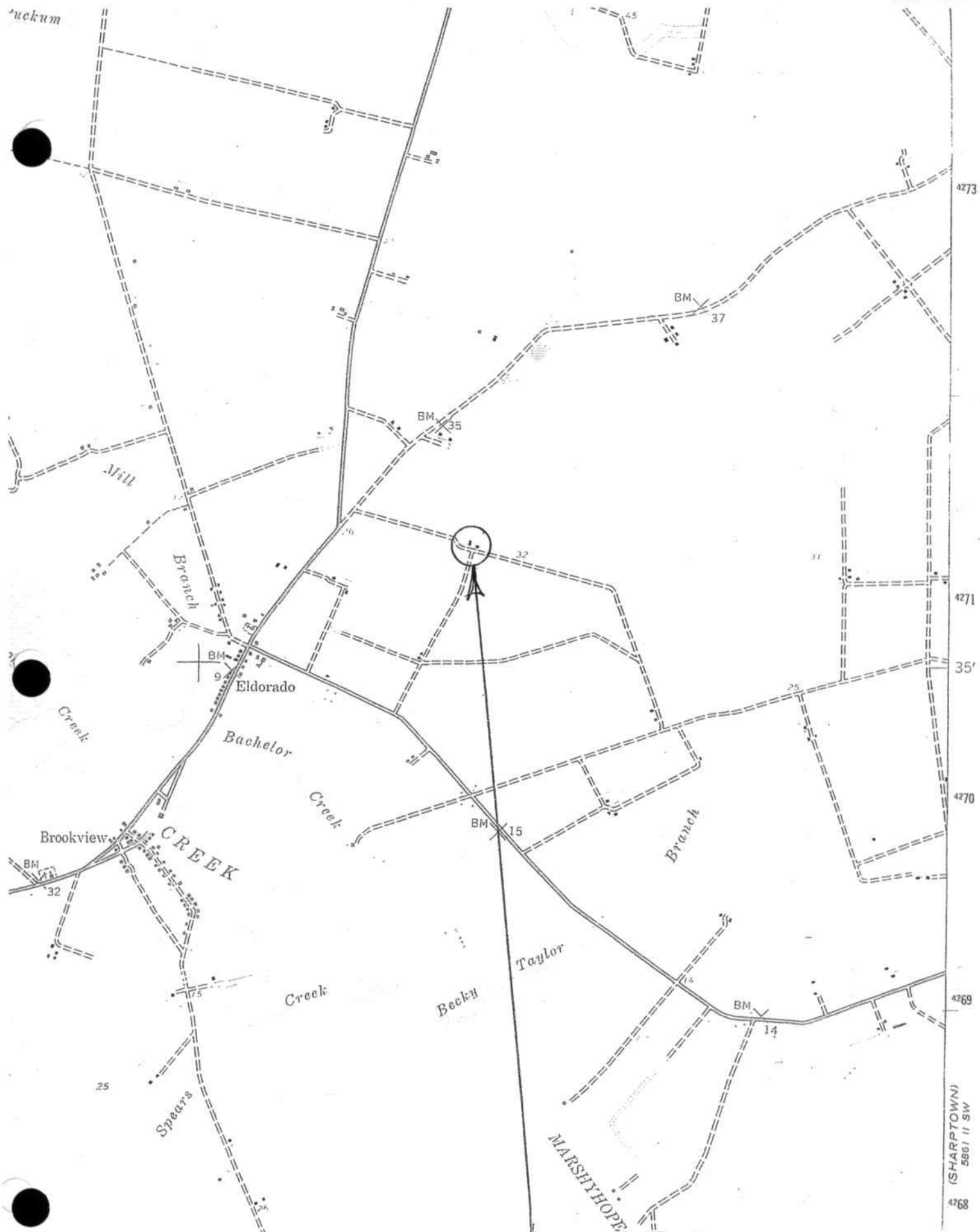
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



- D-329, Rebecca C. Taylor House (Brinsfield House) -
1877, Lake, Griffing, & Stevenson



D-329, Rebecca C. Taylor House
(Brinsfield House)
Rhodesdale Quadrangle, 1944

100329550A

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON:				
Home of Mr. and Mrs. Willis K. Brinsfield				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
Cokesbury Road				
CITY OR TOWN:				
Eldorado				
STATE:			COUNTY:	
Maryland			Dorchester	
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific _____				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME:				
Willis K. Brinsfield (Mr. & Mrs.)				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
Rt. 1, Box 140				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	
Rhodesdale			Maryland	
			21659	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:				
Dorchester County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
High Street				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	
Cambridge			Maryland	
			21613	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): RSM 87/402				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Brinsfield's House is a large Italianate frame farmhouse built on a brick foundation. Its west facade is five bays long with central door, having architrave, sidelights, and transom. Above each window is a small cornice, the second story windows reaching to the bottom of the bracketed cornice. The brackets are evenly spaced above the windows, and they are decorated with applied scrolls and turned drops. There is a three bay one story porch on the first story with shaped brackets. At the corners of the building are paneled pilasters. The building has only three windows across its back or east side. At one time there was an addition off the back, but it has been removed. The building is four bays deep and has two chimneys rising from within the hip roof. Around the base of the chimney caps are a series of corbels. The weatherboard is in contrast to the plain surfaces of the baseboard and fascia, as well as the pilasters.

Behind the building are two 19th century outbuildings, one of which was a dairy, the other a smokehouse.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is one of about four rural Italianate dwellings in Dorchester, Ridgeton and Garden of Eden are similar, but neither has the same detail. They probably pre-date this dwelling. In the fork district this is one of the most impressive farmhouses.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

District 1, Map 24, p. 15.
80.0 acres

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant		
ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust	DATE Nov, 1975	
STREET AND NUMBER: Shaw House, 21 State Circle		
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis	STATE Maryland	21401

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____

14X1.30

50%

D-329



Home, Mr + Mrs Willis K. Brinsfield

D-329

M. Bourne Nov 1975